DOCKET NO.: SHIO-0189 **Application No.:** 10/581,508

Preliminary Amendment - First Action Not Yet Received

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A support method of a medical institution, characterized by providing the latest medical technology for a terminal medical institution, wherein a diagnosis and an examination are provided for a patient of the terminal medical institution by:

arranging a terminal equipment (10) having a diagnostic examination instrument (11) essential to the terminal medical institution (A);

performing the diagnosis and examination of the patient by the terminal equipment at the terminal medical institution;

transmitting diagnosis and examination data of the terminal equipment to the \underline{a} complete medical institution (B)-via a communication network-(C)-;

analyzing and processing the data at the complete medical institution; and transmitting the processed result to the terminal medical institution via the communication network.

- 2. (Currently Amended) The support method of the medical institution according to Claim 1, wherein data analysis/processing is performed by transferring diagnosis and examination data to other support institution (D) equivalent to the complete medical institution while a data analysis/processing function of the complete medical institution (B) is degraded.
- 3. (Currently Amended) A support network of a medical institution providing the latest medical technology for a terminal medical institution, comprising:
- a terminal equipment (10) having a diagnostic examination instrument (11) essentially arranged in the terminal medical institution (A);
- a communication network (C) for transmitting diagnosis and examination data of the terminal equipment; and
- a complete medical institution (B)-for analyzing and processing the diagnosis and examination data transmitted and for transmitting the processed result to the terminal medical institution via the communication network.

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4. (Currently Amended) The support network of the medical institution according to Claim 3, wherein the communication network (C)-is connected with a support institution (D) having a function equivalent to the data processing/analyzing function of the complete medical institution (B).

- 5. (Currently Amended) The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3-or 4, wherein the complete medical institution (B)-is provided with a mobile terminal (E) having a function equivalent to that of the terminal medical institution-(A).
- 6. (Currently Amended) The support network of the medical institution according to Claim 3, 4, or 5, wherein the terminal medical institution comprises terminal medical institutions institutions (A) are distributed in a plurality of places.
- 7. (Currently Amended) The support network of the medical institution according to Claim 3, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the terminal medical institution (A) comprises:
- a diagnostic examination instrument (11) for detecting the condition of the patient; data processing means (17) connected to the diagnostic examination instrument for processing the data; and
- a communication controller (20)-for connecting to the communication network (C)-for transmission.
- 8. (Currently Amended) The support network of the medical institution according to Claim 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7, wherein the terminal medical institution (A) comprises a monitor (14) for an image/video transmitted from the complete medical institution (B).
- 9. (Currently Amended) The support network of the medical institution according to Claim 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8, wherein the complete medical institution (B) comprises a communication controller (20) for receiving the transmitted data from the communication network (C), having an function to specify the institution to be supported, if needed.

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10. (Currently Amended) The support network of the medical institution according to Claim 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9, wherein the complete medical institution (B) comprises an access controller (50) to be actuated upon reception of the transmitted data for initiating the data processing.

- 11. (New) The support network of the medical institution according to Claim 3, wherein the communication network is connected with a support institution having a function equivalent to the data processing/analyzing function of the complete medical institution and wherein the complete medical institution is provided with a mobile terminal having a function equivalent to that of the terminal medical institution.
- 12. (New) The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the communication network is connected with a support institution having a function equivalent to the data processing/analyzing function of the complete medical institution and wherein the terminal medical institution comprises terminal medical institutions distributed in a plurality of places.
- 13. (New) The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the communication network is connected with a support institution having a function equivalent to the data processing/analyzing function of the complete medical institution and wherein the terminal medical institution comprises:
- a diagnostic examination instrument for detecting the condition of the patient; data processing means connected to the diagnostic examination instrument for processing the data; and
- a communication controller for connecting to the communication network for transmission.
- 14. (New) The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the complete medical institution is provided with a mobile terminal having a function

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equivalent to that of the terminal medical institution and wherein the terminal medical institution comprises:

a diagnostic examination instrument for detecting the condition of the patient; data processing means connected to the diagnostic examination instrument for processing the data; and

a communication controller for connecting to the communication network for transmission.

- 15. (New) The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the complete medical institution is provided with a mobile terminal having a function equivalent to that of the terminal medical institution and wherein the terminal medical institution comprises a monitor for an image/video transmitted from the complete medical institution.
- 16. (New) The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the complete medical institution comprises a communication controller for receiving the transmitted data from the communication network, having an function to specify the institution to be supported, and wherein the terminal medical institution comprises:

a diagnostic examination instrument for detecting the condition of the patient; data processing means connected to the diagnostic examination instrument for processing the data; and

a communication controller for connecting to the communication network for transmission.

17. (New) The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the terminal medical institution comprises a monitor for an image/video transmitted from the complete medical institution and wherein the complete medical institution comprises a communication controller for receiving the transmitted data from the communication network, having an function to specify the institution to be supported.

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18. (New) The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the communication network is connected with a support institution having a function equivalent to the data processing/analyzing function of the complete medical institution and wherein the complete medical institution comprises an access controller to be actuated upon reception of the transmitted data for initiating the data processing.

19. (New) The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the terminal medical institution comprises:

a diagnostic examination instrument for detecting the condition of the patient; data processing means connected to the diagnostic examination instrument for processing the data; and

a communication controller for connecting to the communication network for transmission, and

wherein the complete medical institution comprises an access controller to be actuated upon reception of the transmitted data for initiating the data processing.

20. (New) The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the terminal medical institution comprises a monitor for an image/video transmitted from the complete medical institution and wherein the complete medical institution comprises an access controller to be actuated upon reception of the transmitted data for initiating the data processing.